

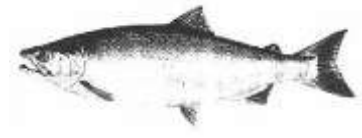
# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



### NEWS RELEASE

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### Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #35

The purpose of this announcement is to provide an update on the July 10 commercial purse seine fishery in the Eastern and Southeastern districts, and to modify area at the head of Port Valdez for the July 12 commercial purse seine fishery. All other fisheries remain as previously announced.

**SEINE FISHERIES:** An aerial survey of the Coghill, Northwestern, Eshamy, and portions of the Northern and Southeastern districts was flown yesterday. Early season indicators of wild stock chum and pink salmon escapement in the Eastern and Southeastern districts are ahead of anticipated numbers and support a wild stock fishery at this time. Aerial surveys will continue next week. Harvest numbers from the July 9 purse seine fishery in the Eastern and Southeastern districts have been revised to approximately 1.7 million pink salmon. Final harvest numbers for the July 10 fishery in the Eastern and Southeastern districts are unavailable at the time of this announcement; however, it is estimated that approximately 1 million pink salmon were harvested. Cumulative pink salmon harvest totals for the Eastern District through July 10 include approximately 1.5 million cost recovery fish, and 10.9 million CPF fish. ADF&G sampling of CPF harvest from Valdez Arm on July 10 resulted in an estimated sex ratio of 54% female. Time and area for future commercial fishing periods will be based on consideration for VFDA broodstock collection progress, harvest results from the July 11 and July 12 fisheries, and wild stock escapement indices.

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** Waters closed to commercial fishing at the head of Port Valdez for the Friday, July 12 purse seine fishery are being modified at VFDA's request out of concern for broodstock collection progress. Waters of the Eastern District will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm on Friday, July 12. For the Friday, July 12 fishing period, waters in Port Valdez east of 146° 30.62' W. longitude will be closed to commercial fishing. All other waters open to commercial fishing remain as previously announced for the July 12 Eastern District commercial purse seine fishery. All regulatory closed waters (including anadromous stream closures) south of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will be in effect until further notice unless specified otherwise in future news releases. Anadromous stream closures and regulatory closed waters north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will not be in effect for this fishing period.

Regulatory closed waters in Olsen Bay were modified for the July 11 and July 12 fisheries. All waters of Olsen Bay north of a latitude of 60°44.50' N. are closed to commercial fishing for the July 11 and July 12 fishing periods.

Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers are closed to commercial fishing during these periods to ensure early season escapement:

- (1) **Beartrap Bay:** north of a line from 60°45.13' N. lat., 146°06.12' W. long. to 60°44.51' N. lat., 146°04.57' W. long.; this includes all waters of Port Gravina and Beartrap Bay north of this line;
- (2) **Galena Bay:** east of a line from 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (3) **Jack Bay:** south and east of a line from 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;
- (4) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.

SHTF marker coordinates are available in the Cordova ADF&G office, and have been provided to area processors, VFDA and PWSAC for distribution to fishery participants.

Any failure in the department's ability to maintain an orderly fishery could result in consideration of future time and area restrictions for commercial purse seine fisheries.

Please refer to Prince William Sound News Release #26 from Thursday, June 27 for details regarding Prince William Sound anadromous stream closures. Electronic copies of the list and associated map detailing these updated regulatory closed waters are available at the following web address under the Prince William Sound Anadromous Waters Closures heading:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.salmon#/maps>

Copies of the list and map are also available in the Cordova ADF&G office.

Please refer to the ADF&G 2012-2015 Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations for Prince William Sound booklet for regulations regarding commercial salmon fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area. This booklet is available in the Cordova ADF&G office and at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/pdfs/commercial/PWSSalmon-2012-2015.pdf>

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to occur by 2:00 pm Friday, July 12.**

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

Announcement recordings are available for **gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345. In addition, announcement recordings are available in Anchorage at 267-2843.**

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web addresses:  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.main> (Copper River homepage) or  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure that they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.

PWS commercial fishers are reminded that area fisheries often necessitate fishing in close proximity to marine mammals. Under the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA), the PWS drift gillnet fishery is classified as a Category II fishery. Participants in Category I and II fisheries must be registered in the Marine Mammal Avoidance Program (MMAP) to be authorized for lawful incidental, but not intentional, marine mammal takes during fishing. However, this authorization explicitly does **not** exempt holders of commercial fishing permits from the MMPA prohibition on takes of marine mammals listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. As a participant in the PWS drift gillnet fishery you are automatically registered in the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). As a participant in a Category II fishery, you must:

- Maintain an MMAP Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy, on board the vessel while engaging in any of the fisheries identified on the reverse side of the certificate. For non-vessel or set net fisheries, the enclosed Certificate, or a photocopy, must be in the possession of the permit holder during fishing operations. This Certificate, in combination with a current, valid state or Federal fishing permit, will serve as your authorization to incidentally take non-endangered or non-threatened marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations.
- Report all injuries and mortalities of marine mammals within 48 hours of returning from the trip during which these takes occurred using the MMAP Mortality/Injury Reporting Form (visit [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/interactions/mmap\\_reporting\\_form.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/interactions/mmap_reporting_form.pdf) for a copy).
- If so requested, take an observer aboard your vessel.

Purse seine and set gillnet gear are classified as a category III fisheries under the MMPA. Category III fishery participants are automatically exempted from the incidental take prohibition in the MMPA. Therefore, you do not need to maintain the MMAP certificate aboard your vessel, but must report any incidental takes of marine mammals within 48 hours of the incident or your return to port. Such reports must be made on the Marine Mammals Authorization Program Mortality/Injury Reporting Form.

Because some marine mammals are also listed under the Endangered Species Act, incidental takes are also regulated under that act and are not authorized. **All** MMPA category fisheries are liable for incidentally taking ESA listed species.

Please reference [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/esa\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/esa_factsheet.pdf) for a list of marine mammals currently listed under the ESA (you should periodically check with the National Marine Fisheries Service for any changes in listed species). Under the ESA, take means to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." 16U.S.C. 1532(19); and harass means an "intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to the wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering." (50 C.F.R. 17.3).

To reduce the possibility of incidentally taking an ESA listed species and its associated liability ADF&G recommends that:

- Fishermen participating in area fisheries remain vigilant in monitoring gear when marine mammals may be present.
- Fishermen use avoidance measures (e.g., not fishing or relocating fishing activities when marine mammals are present or likely to be present) to minimize interactions with marine mammals.
- Avoid fishing in areas where marine mammals are likely to be present at night or when visibility or weather conditions make it difficult to spot marine mammals.

For further questions concerning marine mammal regulations call NMFS at 907-271-5006.